

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 3 and 5-7.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 have been canceled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claims 1 and 4, respectively. Thus, claims 1, 4 and 5 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed January 10, 2006, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is noted that claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended responsive to the rejection. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome the rejection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative.

In the Office Action mailed January 10, 2006, claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,459,797 to Sato (hereinafter, "Sato"). Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejection, as follows.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, and 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 USC § 112, and to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, and the allowable subject matter thereof has been incorporated into their base claim, claim 1. Claim 1 has been

further amended to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 USC § 112. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner further indicated that claims 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled, and the allowable subject matter thereof has been incorporated into their base claim, claim 4. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 4 is in condition for allowance. As claim 4 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claim 5, which depends from allowable claim 4, is likewise allowable.

Conclusion

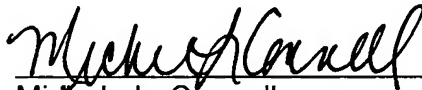
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4 and 5 are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 100021-00073. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 100021-00073.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)